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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AFRICAN WOMEN WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS

(Ancient Egypt – 1984)

Brenda F. Berrian

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INTRODUCTION

When references are made to African literature, the names of such well-known writers as Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, and Ngugi wa Thiong'o are mentioned with frequency. These three writers, along with other male African writers, have received international acclaim and attention. Their creative works have appeared in translations, and they have made public appearances at various African or Comparative Literature conferences. However, it is safe to say that an equal amount of international attention had not been granted to their female counterparts until the late 1970s.

In 1980, the late Senegalese writer, Mariama Bâ, became the first African (man or woman) to be awarded the prestigious Japanese literary prize, the Noma Award for her novel, Une si longue lettre. Mercy Owusu - Nimoh of Ghana was runner-up. As a result of these accomplishments, world-wide attention has been drawn to African women writers. This granting of the 1980 Noma Award to Mariama Bâ has also established the credibility of a creative work penned by an African woman. Other African women writers like Buchi Emecheta, Annette M'Baye, and Clémentine Faïk-Nzuji have also won literary prizes. Thus, it is the intent of this bibliography to acquaint the scholar, teacher, librarian, and other Africanists that the old agrument about the paucity of African women writers is not justified.

The majority of the entries in this volume consist of literary works written by African women writers since the twentieth century. The exceptions are Queen Hatshepsut of Egypt of the fifteenth century B.C. and three Swahili poets — Mwana Kupona binti Msham, Nuru binti Abdullah, and Siti binti Saad — of the nineteenth century. Among genres represented are journalistic essays, critical

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